

Other Cancers of Interest

- **Colorectal Cancer:** The death rate declined from 1980 to 1996 and remained below the national year 2000 goal. The male rate remains higher than the female rate.
- **Prostate Cancer:** The death rate from prostate cancer in Clark County was lower in 1996 than the rate in Washington State since 1991. There are no national or state goals for prostate cancer deaths.

For more information please contact:

- American Cancer Society, 693-1259, or 1-800-729-1151
- American Lung Association, 1-800-732-9339
- Breast and Cervical Health Project, 576-6349
- Southwest Washington Medical Center Cancer Center, 256-2174
- YWCA, 696-0167

Sources:

SWWHD, *Reviewing the Health of Clark County*, 1998 Update, 1998.

SWWHD, Clark County's Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 1996.

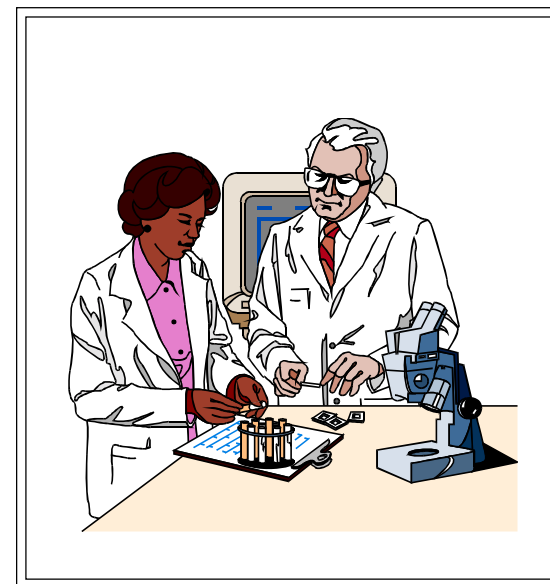
Clark County PRIDE Survey, 1997.



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Cancer in Clark County



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Cancer is a group of illnesses characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells. It is a major cause of death in Clark County, Washington State, and the United States. An estimated one in three Americans will be diagnosed with cancer during their lives. For this reason we focus our efforts toward promotion of healthy behaviors to prevent cancer and detect it early. Three areas of focus in Clark County are lung, breast, and cervical cancers.

Lung Cancer and Smoking

Lung cancer and smoking cause more deaths than any other cancer. Lung cancer, in many cases, can be prevented.

- Tobacco use is the leading cause of lung cancer.
- One in four adults in Clark County smoked cigarettes in 1996.
- Many youth in the community begin smoking at a young age, as early as 6th and 8th grade.

Female Breast Cancer

Most cases of breast cancer are identifiable at an early stage via self-breast exams, clinical exams, and mammograms.

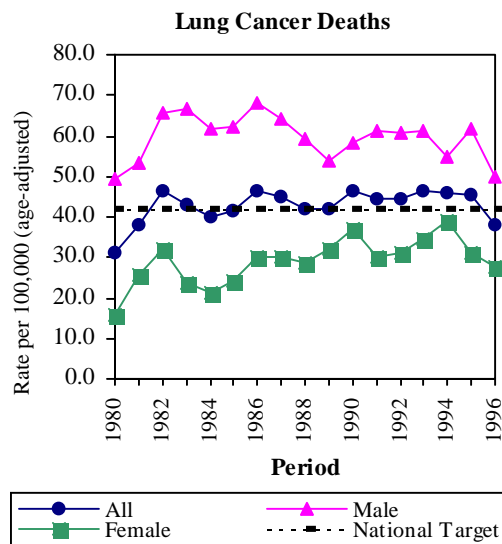
- 179 women in Clark County died from breast cancer from 1992-96.
- Three quarters of all breast cancer deaths in Clark County were in women 55 years and older.
- Nationally, 1 in 9 women are diagnosed with breast cancer by age 85.

Cervical Cancer

Most cases of cervical cancer are preventable with regular screening and early detection.

- Mostly women over 45 years are affected by cervical cancer (78% of cases).
- Clark County's cervical cancer death rate was more than 2 times the national goal of 1.3 per 100,000, and higher than Washington State's rate.
- Human papilloma virus has been linked to cervical cancer. If properly used, condoms will help reduce the risk of transmission of human papilloma virus.

Lung Cancer Death Rates



Over 150 Clark County residents died from lung cancer in 1996.

- The rate of lung cancer deaths in men is nearly twice the rate in women.
- From 1980 to 1996, Clark County's rate of lung cancer deaths for women nearly doubled.
- Clark County met the national year 2000 goal for lung cancer in 1996.

